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TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Jamaica Plain Friendly Society.

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BOSTON
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Twelfth Annual Report

OF THE

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY is now so well known in this community that an extended account of its purpose and work is unnecessary. Yet there may be some into whose hands this report will come who do not understand the scope and purport of the Society. Especially may this be the case with persons who have recently come among us. For the information of those who may desire it, we make the following brief statement.

The Friendly Society is simply private charity — *organized.* Because it is private charity, it relieves, as a rule, only such forms of want as in the lives of the individuals assisted are temporary and exceptional, and only those persons whose temporary dependence upon charity is involuntary and blameless. It is with such forms of want and with such persons that it is the special province of private charity to deal. That is to say, the private individual of the ability to do so, and not the State, or the municipality, or the town, should extend the aid which is commonly spoken of as "outdoor relief."

Experience has shown that the public management of "outdoor relief," that is, assistance extended to those in want who are not inmates of almshouses and asylums, has increased

the very evil which it sought to remedy. It is now becoming a recognized principle of action that the government should cease extending assistance to people in their homes. In many places the practice has been abandoned with the most beneficial results.

Permanent cases of destitute dependence may be remitted to the poorhouse or the hospital; but *private charity* should deal with temporary and exceptional distress, if it is to be prevented from becoming continuous and chronic distress.

But experience shows that private charity left to the generosity and sympathy and humane impulses of *individuals* is not, as a rule, wisely administered. It is found to operate as a premium upon laziness and improvidence. It increases mendicancy and encourages able-bodied poverty to depend for support upon the industrious and thrifty.

To prevent this, private charity must be *organized*. For to prevent this there must be regularity and method in dealing with those in temporary need and distress; there must be a system of registration — a system by which it can be known who are the worthy and who the unworthy; there must be personal visitation, personal acquaintance with those whom it is sought to help; there must be, when practicable, such relief supplied as is compensated for, in some measure, by work on the part of the recipient of such relief; there must be prompt relief, it must be restricted to the needs of the person relieved, it must be withdrawn as speedily as possible; in other words, there must be given not what may be asked for, but what is needed.

Private charity can attain these results only as it is organized. The Friendly Society is organized private charity. It is the medium through which the philanthropic impulses of this community may make themselves felt humanely, wisely, and helpfully.

We have said that the Friendly Society relieves, as a rule, only those persons whose temporary dependence upon charity is involuntary and blameless. There are those in every community whose difficulties, through no fault of their own, incapacitate, for a time, for the struggle for existence. It is for the welfare of the individual and for the welfare of the community that only such persons should be aided. Such persons the Friendly Society desires to help. In other words, we wish to avoid indiscriminate almsgiving. Any other application of charity is almost without excepton misdirected. It aggravates the evil it seeks to alleviate. It encourages the professional beggar and enlarges the area of pauperism. This the Friendly Society would avoid. Hence the discrimination which it practises. A word as to the work the Society has done during the past year.

Through its visitors it has extended aid to eighty-seven different families in this community. These visitors, in their capacity as friends of these families, have made upon them the total number of 486 visits.

The Society has supplied forty-one women with work in the way of sewing, for which work it has paid. These women have made the total number of 1,334 articles.

These articles have been disposed of as follows: —

New England Hospital	125
Children's Mission	74
City Hospital	195
Massachusetts Infant Asylum	96
Given away	200
Sold	228
On hand	380

The institutions named have supplied the material for the articles they have received. The Society has had the mate-

rial made up by the women applying for work, and has turned over the finished articles to the institutions supplying the material. The institutions thus receive the benefit of the labor performed. The Society, on the other hand, saves the expense of material and prevents an embarrassing accumulation of articles.

The Society, as in previous years, has had some *private* orders for sewing. That is to say, some persons in this community who have wanted certain work of this kind done, have given direction to the Society to have it done, they supplying the material and paying for the work when it was finished. The Society would very gladly receive more of these private orders. For it almost always has some superior needlewomen among its beneficiaries, and through the medium of such orders, it not infrequently happens that such needlewomen secure permanent employment. For they thus become known to those who want their services and soon find themselves supplied with all the work that they can do, independently of the Society. The private order system may thus become the means of finding regular employment for skilled seamstresses.

During the past year three women have been supplied with sewing to some extent by private orders. Thirty-six different articles have been made by them. These thirty-six articles are a part of the total of 1,334 already mentioned.

Six women have been provided with work in the way of washing and cleaning.

The Society gratefully received Mr. Vogel's supply of boots and shoes.

It also thanks the Gas Company for a supply of coke; as it does also those generous persons who have given to the Society, from time to time, supplies of clothing to be distributed among the deserving poor.

An examination of the Treasurer's report will show that the Society has expended in the prosecution of its work during the past year, $1,167.87.

The Society's agent is to be found at the Society's room at Curtis Hall every day from ten o'clock A.M. to one o'clock P.M., except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Persons wishing to bring to the notice of the Society cases of distress that they think the Society might help, may do so by applying to the agent or to the visitors in whose district the distress is located.

S. U. SHEARMAN, *President.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

October 1, 1885, to October 6, 1886.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year	$360.06
Subscriptions	992.90
Sales	172.83
Balance returned by agent	11.06
	$1,536.85

EXPENDITURES.

Work through Employment Committee	$300.00	
Materials	173.83	
Agent's salary	300.00	
Provisions and milk	170.44	
Boots and shoes	73.05	
Fuel	15.25	
Printing	20.50	
Postage and stationery	14.50	
Associated Charities	100.00	
Express	.30	
Cash on hand	368.98	
		$1,536.85

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of E. W. Clark, Esq., Treasurer of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, from October 1, 1885, to October 6, 1886, and that the same are correctly cast; that the payments therein are properly vouched; and that the Treasurer charges himself as of the latter date with a balance of Three Hundred and Sixty-eight Dollars and Ninety-eight Cents ($368.98) from last year's accounts, in addition to subscriptions received for the coming year.

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH, *Auditor.*

BOSTON, October 11, 1886.

OFFICERS OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY FOR 1885–86.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Mr. C. E. Guild, Mrs. D. S. Greenough, Rev. George M. Boynton, Rev. William Bradley.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Miss Ellen C. Morse.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, Chairman; Dr. E. P. Gerry, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Mrs. T. B. Frothingham, Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. Charles E. Guild.

VISITORS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

District 1, west of Centre Street; visitor, Miss E. C. Morse, Prince Street; associate, Rev. George M. Boynton, Chestnut Avenue.

District 2, vicinity of horse-railroad station; visitor, Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place; associate, Mr. Patrick McMorrow, Forest Hills Street.

District 3, vicinity of Forest Hills station; visitor, Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hills Street; associate, Dr. A. H. Eayrs.

District 4, Canterbury, Mount Hope division; visitors, Miss Faulkner, Rockwood Street, Miss Chickering, Green Street; associate, Dr. Faulkner.

District 5, Canterbury Street; visitor, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Pond Street; associate, Dr. Gerry.

District 6, Canterbury, eastern division; visitor, Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill Street; associate, Mr. C. E. Guild.

District 7, Washington Street, and territory lying east thereof; visitors, Mrs. N. S. Wakefield, Beethoven Street, and Mrs. Austin B. French, Seaverns Avenue; associate, Dr. A. P. Perry.

District 8, Keyes Street; visitor, Mrs. James Low, Forest Hills Street; associate, Dr. H. C. Ernst.

District 9, Carolina Avenue, Child Street, etc.; visitor, Miss Davis, at Dr. Wood's, Revere Street; associate, Mr. Chas. B. Cumings, Greenough Avenue.

District 10, Starr Street, Union Avenue, and vicinity; visitors, Mrs. C. S. Waldo, Centre Street, and Mrs. C. B. Cumings, Greenough Avenue; associate, Rev. C. F. Dole.

District 11, Green, Lamartine, Chestnut Streets, etc.; visitor, Mrs. James Lee, Story Place; associate, Rev. S. U. Shearman.

District 12, Boylston Avenue and Green Street to Washington Street; visitors, Miss Jaques, Cedar Avenue, and Mrs. Samuel G. Thaxter, Sigourney Street; associate, Dr. H. C. Ernst.

District 13, Spring Park, Sheridan Avenue, etc.; visitor, Miss Harriet Garratt, Cedar Avenue; associate, Rev. Wm. Bradley.

District 14, east of Boylston Avenue, from Green Street to Egleston Square; visitor, Mrs. E. P. Butler, A Street, near Boylston Street; associate, Mr. George W. Fowle.

SOLICITORS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

District	No.	1.	Miss Charlotte Bowditch.
,,	,,	2.	Miss Ellen C. Morse.
,,	,,	3.	Miss Adelle Downes.
,,	,,	4.	Miss Nellie Evans.
,,	,,	5.	Miss Lillie French.
,,	,,	6.	Miss Helen Bigelow.
,,	,,	7.	Miss Mary Faulkner.
,,	,,	8.	Miss Eleanor Guild.
,,	,,	9.	Miss Mary Simpkins.
,,	,,	10.	Miss Frances Harris.
,,	,,	11.	Miss Mary Walker.
,,	,,	12.	Miss Eva Folsom.
,,	,,	13.	Mrs. E. P. Butler.
,,	,,	14.	Miss Lila D. Wright.
,,	,,	15.	Mrs. T. W. Seaverns.